

# How to Store Water

## Why?

In a disaster such as a large magnitude earthquake, water systems will most likely suffer damage and safe water will not be available. Store a two-week supply of water for each family member (*2 gallons per person per day*), to cover drinking, first aid and cooking needs. Include water provisions for pets. Learn how to shut off the water supply to your house or business.

## How to Store Water

Water should be stored in plastic containers, preferably heavy, opaque plastic with tight-fitting, screw-on caps. Mark the date on the containers when stored and place in a cool, dark location. Use the water within one year and replace. A small amount of household bleach (*5.25% sodium hypochlorite*), 8 drops per gallon, will prevent bacterial growth. Purchased bottled water can be stored as purchased for several years.

## Other Emergency Sources

Your household water heater tank can supply 30 - 60 gallons for an emergency supply. When not under pressure (*the main valve to the house is shut off*) the tank may have to be vented by opening the hot water faucet or disconnecting the hot water line at the top of the heater. Turn off the gas or electricity to the tank before draining off water for emergency use. Melted ice cubes, toilet reservoir tanks (*without disinfectants*), and juices from canned foods may also be used.

# How to Purify Water

**Boiling:** Boil vigorously for 3-5 minutes. To improve taste, pour from one container to another several times to aerate.

**Purification Tablets:** Available at most drug stores. Follow directions on the package.

**Bleach Purification:** Liquid household bleach (*sodium hypochlorite 5.25%*) can be used. Add according to the table below. Mix thoroughly; let stand for 30 minutes. If liquid pool chlorine is used, add only half the amounts listed below.

Amount of Water	Clear Water	Cloudy Water
1 quart	2 drops	4 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	16 drops
5 gallons	1/2 tsp.	1 tsp.
50 gallons	1 tbsp. (3 tsp.)	2 tbsp.



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